

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached Replacement Sheet of Drawings includes changes to Figs. 1 and 2 and replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1-3.

The changes made to Figs. 1 and 2 are as follows: Both figures have been labeled as "Prior Art," as required by the Examiner.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

This application contains claims 1-50. Claims 17-50 are allowed. Claims 1-8 and 11-16 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 9 and 10 are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The drawings were objected to on the grounds that Figures 1 and 2 should be labeled as "Prior Art." Applicant has amended the drawings accordingly.

Claims 1, 2 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Allan et al. (U.S. Patent 5,946,313), while claims 3-8 and 12-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Allan in view of Takiyasu et al. (U.S. Patent 5,113,392). While disagreeing with the grounds of rejection, Applicant has canceled the rejected claims in order to expedite issuance of a patent on the remaining claims.

Claims 9 and 10 were objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, but were deemed to recite allowable subject matter. Applicant has therefore amended claim 9 to stand as an independent claim, incorporating the limitations of claims 1, 3 and 5, from which claim 9 formerly depended. Claim 10 has been amended for proper antecedent dependence from claim 9. In reference to claims 9 and 10, the Examiner indicated that the claims should also be rewritten to overcome a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, but no such rejection was recorded in the present Official Action. Therefore, claims 9 and 10 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicant assumes that the Reasons for Allowance stated by the Examiner apply to some, but not all, of the allowed claims, since the stated reasons refer to

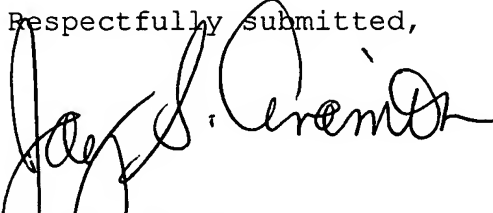
limitations that are not present in all of the allowed claims. On this basis, Applicant has no objection to the stated Reasons for Allowance.

Applicant has studied the additional references that were made of record by the Examiner and believes that all the claims currently pending in this application are patentable over these additional references.

Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the objections and grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application are in order for allowance. Notice to this effect is hereby requested.

Please charge any fees which may be due and which have not been submitted herewith to our Deposit Account No. 01-0035.

Respectfully submitted,



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